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greatly surprised at some of the things we did find. On the very crest of Whiteside, in the dry soil, were no less than four species of Orchids, all of them found in the swamps of the lowest parts of the state visited. This was not an unusual case, for it became an object of common remark among us that distinctions of habitat fail here. Most of the plants seem to be found indifferently on the mountain tops and in the valleys, on dry slopes or in the swamps.

The effect of altitude on the time of blossoming of some of our common plants was clearly seen. We often found the *Hypoxys erecta* in blossom, and on Whiteside we found *Aquilegia Canadensis* in bloom on the 12th of July, and on the Nantehala mountains a week later the *Tiarella cordifolia*, both early spring flowers. It was unexpected to find these flowers in their prime so late in the season at a point so far south.

Evanston, Ill.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

New variety of *Asclepias tuberosa*.—*Asclepias tuberosa* is one of the well marked species of the genus, with its hairy stem (destitute of a milky juice), scattered leaves and orange-colored flowers. Only one variety, *decumbens*, is given in Gray's Synoptical Flora. A form different from this, and one which seems to be well entitled to a varietal name, has been in my herbarium for some years, and I now wish to characterize it as a new variety.

Asclepias tuberosa, var. *flexuosa*. Stem flexuous: leaves sub-opposite, a pair at each node: the flexuous stem is caused by a peculiar curvature of the internodes.—Cumberland mountains, Tennessee. *Miss M. Mohr*.—JOSEPH F. JAMES, *Oxford, Ohio*.

Exploding fruits.—While out collecting recently I gathered a considerable quantity of *Euphorbia serpyllifolia* in fruit. Upon arriving home the plants were taken from the press for examination, as a fungus was detected upon the leaves. While attending to some other specimens I heard a strange little ticking sound which might be compared with the noise made by the little beetles often found in old furniture, known as "death-watch beetles." Upon examination, it was found that the ripe capsules were bursting open and scattering their seeds in all directions. The capsules are not two lines long, yet the explosive power of their elastic valves is so great as to throw the seeds fully three feet away. Many of these bursting capsules were watched, and the average distance seeds were thrown was about two feet, sometimes a little less and often a good deal more.—F. W. ANDERSON, *Great Falls, Mont.*